



PIPELINE SAFETY

2010 State Damage Prevention Grant

for

NEBRASKA PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

Please follow the directions listed below:

- 1. Review the entire document for completeness.
- 2. Review and have an authorized signatory sign page 2.
- 3. Fasten all pages with a paper or binder clip no staples please as this package will be scanned upon it's arrival at PHMSA.
- 4. Mail the entire document, including this cover page to the following:

ATTN: Karina Munoz
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Contracts and Procurement
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Second Floor E22-228
Washington, D.C. 20590

FedSTAR Information

Submission Date: 9/4/2009 3:30:22 PM





Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

APPLICATION

2010 GRANT PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF STATE DAMAGE PREVENTION

The NEBRASKA PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION hereby applies to the Department of Transportation for Federal funds appropriated for the support of State Damage Prevention Programs established under 49 U.S.C. Section 60134 et seq.

The State agency plans to carry out the State Damage Prevention Program, during calendar year 2010, as described in Attachment 1, "Project Abstract/Statement of Objectives". To accomplish the program, the state agency proposes to expend funds as set forth in Attachment 4, "State Damage Prevention Estimated Budget".

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Project Abstract/Statement of Objectives

Please provide a clear and concise description of the work this grant will fund for calendar year 2010

Utilizing the human resources of the Common Ground of Nebraska (CGN), a Regional Partner of the Common Ground Alliance, the funding from this grant will be utilized to strengthen awareness and partnership of all Stakeholder's in Nebraska Underground Damage Prevention while communicating the identified Best Practices in all Stakeholder industries through promotion, outreach and education. The funding from this grant will support the following identified initiatives for Nebraska Damage Prevention:

The development and implementation of an Annual Underground Safety Summit. The focus of this Summit will be educational workshops for the Excavating Community, Utility Operator's and Underground Utility Locators, providing industry specific information, education of the CGA Best Practices and round table topic discussion among all Stakeholders. Vendors with new and emerging technologies will be onsite to demonstrate and educate on new and existing technologies. Emphasis will be on awareness, recruitment and active participation in the initiatives of the CGN to expand the communication link among all Stakeholders and increase the shared support and commitment to Underground Damage Prevention in Nebraska.

Continue the success of the Underground Locator Workshops historically developed and implemented by the CGN and expand the curriculum to include Basic and Advanced instruction. Offering these workshops at little to no cost encourages attendance from the smaller utilities and municipalities that historically could not participate due to prohibitive budgets.

Increase awareness of Underground Utility Damage Prevention to the population of Homeowners and Property Owners found in the metropolitan and vast rural areas of Nebraska through promotional hand-outs, advertising, direct mailings and continued participation in the various Farm Safety programs held throughout Nebraska.

Distribute white marking flags and spray paint to the excavating community to educate and encourage the pre-marking of the proposed dig-site and enhance the communications between the excavator, utility locator and One Call.



State Damage Prevention Elements

ELEMENT 1 - EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

"Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of methods for establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders from receipt of an excavation notification until successful completion of the excavation, as appropriate."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) Yes

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

The Nebraska One Call Notification Center, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska provides the most accessible venue for enhanced communication between Operators and Excavators in the State of Nebraska.

For a normal excavation notice, within 48 business hours of placing the locate request the utility must mark or provide an "all clear" to the excavator that will be conducting the excavation within the proposed dig site. To ensure open communication within the 48 hour locate period between the excavator and the member utility, the information that is collected from the excavator and documented on the notification received by the member utility, must include, but is not limited to:

Name of Excavator
Name of Company if applicable
Daytime Phone Number
Alternative Name
Alternative Phone Number
Additional "crew on-site" information or scheduled meet requests

Upon providing all required information to the One Call Center regarding the proposed excavation - the excavator will be notified of all affected utilities within the proposed dig site that must respond by marking the lines or providing an "all clear" notification to the excavator within a 48 business hour period. The phone numbers of all affected utilities on the One Call Ticket will be provided to the requesting excavator as a resource for direct contact if any clarification or further information is needed by the excavator regarding the location of the member utilities.

In the event of a defined Emergency or Damage Locate request, the affected Member utility will receive, in addition to the preferred notification delivery, a manually generated phone call to the member utility emergency contact to provide on-site and location directive of the Emergency or Damage locate request.

At any time during the active life of the locate ticket, the excavator or member utility may contact the One Call for needed information regarding the active locate request. For information regarding a historical locate request, records are maintained and available for 5



ELEMENT 2 - COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

"A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government in all phases of the program."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) Yes

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

In 2006, the Common Ground of Nebraska was established and became a recognized Regional Partner of the Common Ground of Alliance. The mission statement adopted by the Common Ground of Nebraska: "The mission of the CGN is to promote damage prevention in Nebraska for all underground utilities by advancing underground utility safety through shared responsibility; supporting Common Ground Alliance (CGA) adopted best practices, and modeling the CGA committee format."

With the commitment of shared responsibility, recruitment and membership efforts continue to focus upon a collaborative effort to include all Stakeholders involved with underground damage prevention and public safety. Stakeholder groups with active membership in the Common Ground of Nebraska include: Gas, One Call, Excavator, Locator, Electric, Municipality, Wastewater, Telecommunications, Railroad and State Regulator. The Common Ground of Nebraska conducts quarterly meetings across the State of Nebraska and provides a communication venue to include a website, direct mailings and email correspondence.

Describe how the proposed project will enhance or continue implementation of this element: (Required only if proposal addresses this element)

The development and implementation of an Annual Underground Safety Summit will strengthen the commitment of Stakeholder support through education and recruitment of active participation in the mission towards underground damage prevention and public safety. The focus of this Summit will be educational workshops for the Excavating Community, Utility Operator's and Underground Utility Locators, providing industry specific information, education of the CGA Best Practices and round table topic discussion among all Stakeholders. Vendors with new and emerging technologies will be onsite to demonstrate and educate on new and existing technologies. Emphasis will be on awareness, recruitment and active participation in the initiatives of the CGN to expand the communication link among all Stakeholders and increase the shared support and commitment to Underground Damage Prevention in Nebraska.

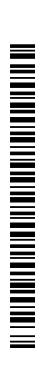
ELEMENT 3 - OPERATOR INTERNAL PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

"A process for reviewing the adequacy of a pipeline operator's internal performance measures regarding persons performing locating services and quality assurance programs."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) No

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

The Nebraska Pipeline operators have specific in-house internal performance measurement processes per internal and regulatory policy.



ELEMENT 4 - EFFECTIVE EMPLOYEE TRAINING

"Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the one call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) Yes

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

Utilizing the Common Ground Alliance DIRT (Data Information Reporting Tool), Nebraska damage information is collected and analyzed to identify root cause and associated areas for needed training and education. In 2006, damage data identified insufficient locating practices to be the root cause of over 30% of damages associated with an excavation project that had a current locate request for the excavation site.

In an effort to address insufficient locating practices and the need for consistent training across the State of Nebraska; the Common Ground of Nebraska developed and implemented Locator Training Workshops in 4 regions across the State during 2008 and 2009. Understanding the budget limitations of many small municipalities and one call member utilities, the workshops were offered to all attendees at no cost and allowed for both classroom and field instruction in locate theory, new technologies and application. The curriculum also focused on Nebraska One Call procedures and provided an overview of the Common Ground Alliance Best Practices.

Additional efforts in employee training partnerships in the State of Nebraska include, but are not limited to:

- The inclusion of Nebraska One Call operations and site visits in company training programs for all new hires in all Stakeholder industries.
- Regional excavator programs highlighting One Call Operations and Pipeline Safety.
- Quarterly "Industry Spotlight" presentations highlighting the operations and internal processes of all stakeholders involved in underground excavation and utility damage prevention.

Describe how the proposed project will enhance or continue implementation of this element: (Required only if proposal addresses this element)

Using the funds available via this grant to continue the success of the Underground Locator Workshops historically developed and implemented by the CGN and expand the curriculum to include Basic and Advanced instruction will continue to ensure consistent and updated training for the underground utility locators of Nebraska. The funding will allow the CGN to offer these workshops at little to no cost to encourage attendance from the smaller utilities and municipalities that historically could not participate due to prohibitive budgets.

ELEMENT 5 - PUBLIC EDUCATION

"A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) Yes

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

Nebraska One Call develops an annual marketing plan using the information collected from CGA's DIRT to identify the target audiences and regions for focused education and outreach efforts. Additionally, targeted efforts are geared towards the untraditional excavating markets to include homeowners, underground irrigation, fencing, arborists/master gardeners and the agricultural markets. A combination of radio, direct mailings, training, print media, sponsorship of professional sporting events and field level promotion are examples of the venues used in these promotions.

Member utilities, excavating companies and contract locating companies partner with the Nebraska One Call in executing these efforts. Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

- Nebraska Pipeline companies partner with Nebraska One Call in combining resources for the publication and mailing of 14,000+ newsletters mailed on a bi-annual basis to all Stakeholders across the State of Nebraska and surrounding States. (see Attachment?? Digger's Hotline of Nebraska Spring Newsletter 2009).
- Excavators, Member Utility and Contract Locating Companies distribute One Call white flags and educate on white lining at the field level.
- Excavating company developed a homeowner 811 flyer and Member Utilities distributed the flyer in monthly customer statements.
- Participation in several Farm Safety Workshops across the State of Nebraska educating on safe digging and One Call.

Describe how the proposed project will enhance or continue implementation of this element: (Required only if proposal addresses this element)

Funding from this grant will allow the CGN to continue increased awareness of Underground Utility Damage Prevention to the population of Homeowners and Property Owners found in the metropolitan and vast rural areas of Nebraska through the development and distribution of promotional hand-outs, the procurement of advertising, implementing direct mailings individually and in partnership with participating Stakeholders and continued participation in the various Farm Safety programs held throughout Nebraska through voluntary participation among Stakeholders sharing educational resources for the workshops. Emphasis will be placed on "811" advertising to compliment the outreach efforts of One Call and Utility Operator's.

ELEMENT 6 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

"A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) No

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

One Call will provide all historical documentation and recordings to any party involved in a dispute when that party is a referenced contractor or utility owner on the One Call Ticket in dispute.



ELEMENT 7 - ENFORCEMENT

"Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) No

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

The Nebraska Attorney General's Office enforces the One-Call Notification System act based upon complaints received by any Stakeholder in the State of Nebraska. To ensure a fair and consistent reporting system of complaints, all stakeholder groups are educated in the Statutes surrounding the corresponding legislation and the process for submitting a comprehensive and legitimate report of any violation to the One Call Notification System. In many cases, arranging for a combined meeting in person or via the phone between One Call and the disputing parties will resolve the pending issue by providing a venue for communication and negotiated resolution between the parties.

The Common Ground of Nebraska provides a quarterly forum for voicing complaints and communication between various Stakeholders during the regularly scheduled regional meetings. Utilizing CGA Best Practices as a guide towards communication and mutual resolution, several complaints have been addressed and agreed upon without the need to escalate to the Attorney General's office.

The Attorney General has created a simple form for filing a complaint that is hosted on the Nebraska One Call website for easy access. Frequent training agenda's for Excavators and Member Utilities include education on completing and filing a complaint with the Attorney General.



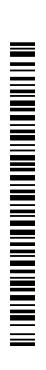
ELEMENT 8 - TECHNOLOGY

"A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) No

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

One Call has established a Virtual DIRT to encourage damage reporting by all Stakeholder groups in the State of Nebraska. That data combined with the damage records collected and analyzed internally at One Call utilizing the DIRT tool allow for the identification of trends and development of educational outreach programs to address the associated root cause of damage found in the analysis.



ELEMENT 9 - DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAM REVIEW

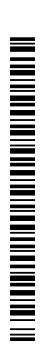
"A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews."

Does the proposed project address this element? (Required) No

Describe any existing state initiatives that support this element: (Required)

As addressed in several of the previous Elements, the use of the CGA DIRT template is the backbone to identifying trends, areas for outreach and measures for metrics improvement. Nebraska One Call records all annual damage ticket information in DIRT and analyses on a monthly basis. To encourage more comprehensive reporting, Nebraska One Call is also host to a virtual private DIRT application and expends promotional effort to encourage all stakeholders to submit damage information via Nebraska Virtual DIRT.

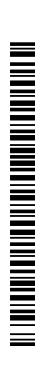
In response to a statewide commitment to continual process improvement, Nebraska One Call conducts a year end customer satisfaction survey to all users of the One Call Center, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska. Data collected from this survey addresses internal and external operations, specific industry feedback and open comments for improvement to not only the operations of Digger's Hotline but also all Stakeholders involved in underground damage prevention. The results from this survey are key in determining future initiatives and process improvements for the upcoming year.



Legislative/Regulatory Actions

Provide a description of any legislature or regulatory actions (including legislative/regulatory studies) taken by the State within the past five (5) years pertaining to damage prevention program improvement, even if those actions were not completely successful.

To our knowledge, there has been no legislative or regulatory action taken by the State within the past five (5) years pertaining to damage prevention program improvement.



State Damage Prevention Application Attachments





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848 Phone: (402) 471-2244 • gov.heineman@gov.ne.gov

September 23, 2009

Warren Osterber U.S. Department of Transportation; Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ATTN: Office of Contracts and Procurement 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Room E22-103 Washington, DC 20590

RE: State Damage Prevention Grant Award

Dear Mr. Osterber:

This letter is being submitted as part of the submittal requirements of the State Damage Prevention Grant awarded by Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The Nebraska State Fire Marshal is the entity responsible for the Pipeline Safety Program in Nebraska. I am designating the State Fire Marshal as the entity eligible to apply for the Damage Prevention Grant solicitation number DTPH56-10-SN-001 for calendar year 2010. The Agency is the entity which has applied for this grant.

Thank you for your continued support of Nebraska's Pipeline Safety Program.

Sincerely,

Dave Heineman

Governor

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES										
(a) Grant Program			(b) Applicant		(c) State		(d) Other Sources		(e)TOTALS	
8. State Damage Prevention Program		\$		\$		\$		\$		
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20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)				\$		\$		\$		
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION										
21. Direct Charges: 22. Indirect Charges:										
23. Remarks:										

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OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

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Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 Version 02							
* 1. Type of Submission	on:	* 2. Type of Application:	* If	Revision, select appropriate letter(s):			
Preapplication		New [
Application			* 0	other (Specify)			
	cted Application	Revision					
	cted Application		_				
* 3. Date Received: 09/08/2009		Applicant Identifier:					
09/08/2009							
5a. Federal Entity Ider	ntifier:		+	* 5b. Federal Award Identifier:			
State Use Only:			<u></u>				
6. Date Received by S	State:	7. State Application	lde	entifier:			
8. APPLICANT INFO	PRMATION:				<u> </u>		
* a. Legal Name: NE	BRASKA PIPELI	NE SAFETY DIVISION					
* b. Employer/Taxpaye	er Identification Nun	mber (EIN/TIN):	T	* c. Organizational DUNS:			
47-0491233				878046150			
d. Address:							
* Street1:	246 South 14th	h	_				
Street2:			_				
* City:	Lincoln						
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e. Organizational Ur	nit:		_				
Department Name:			[Division Name:			
NA				Nebraska Pipeline Safety			
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:							
Prefix: Mr.		* First Name	∋:	Clark			
Middle Name:		<u></u>				_	
* Last Name: Con	klin		_	<u> </u>		\neg	
Suffix:						_	
Title: Chief Deputy							
Organizational Affiliation:							
* Telephone Number: 402-471-9467 Fax Number: 402-471-3118							
* Email: clark.conklin@nebraska.gov							

Close Form Previous Next Print Page About

OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	Version 02
9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:	
A: State Government	
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:	
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:	
* Other (specify):	
* 10. Name of Federal Agency:	
Pipeline &Hazardous Material Safety Administration	
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	
20.720	
CFDA Title:	
Pipeline Safety	
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:	
DTPH56-10-SN-0001	
* Title:	
State Damage Prevention Grants	
13. Competition Identification Number:	
Title:	
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):	
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):	
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:	
NEBRASKA PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION State Damage Prevention	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.	
Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments	

OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	Version 02				
* Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation					
The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.					

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,00 0 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

* APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION						
NEBRASKA PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION						
* PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE						
Prefix: Mr. * First Name: Clark	Middle Name:					
* Last Name: Conklin	Suffix:					
* Title: Chief Deputy						
* SIGNATURE: Rosemary Hatton * DATE	E: 09/08/2009					